

Appl. No. 09/844,568
312 Amendment dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claim 1 by substituting the symbol “<” for the symbol “<” in the formulae to conform the claim’s scope to the subject matter originally filed as claim 7. This correction is of a formal nature and is needed for proper disclosure as well as for proper protection of the invention. Moreover, the amendment does not require a substantial amount of additional work on the part of the PTO because the error is typographical in nature as discussed herein.

The typographical error presented in claim 1 occurred upon Applicants’ filing of an Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 , mailed March 24, 2004 (the “Amendment After Final Rejection”). The final office action mailed January 26, 2004 stated that claim 9 was objected to. Applicants proceeded to amend claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of claim 9 to present claim 9 in independent form (as amended claim 1).

Claim 9 as originally filed read as follows:

9. The interconnect of claim 1 wherein Ln is La, A is Sr, B is Co, $0.3 \leq x \leq 0.5$; $0.5 \leq x' \leq 0.7$; $0 \leq x'' \leq 0.2$; $0.9 < y < 1.05$; and $0 \leq y' \leq 0.1$; provided that $x + x' + x'' = 1$ and $1.05 > y + y' \geq 1.02$.

During the course of word-processing claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 9, as presented above, the text taken from claim 9 and incorporated into claim 1 was underlined. Upon underlining the text, the underlining inadvertently covered over the “equals” portion of the symbol “greater than or equal to” to cause the claim to differ from claim 9, as originally filed.

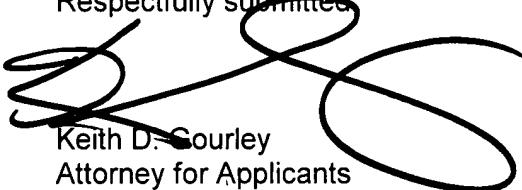
Appl. No. 09/844,568
312 Amendment dated May 27, 2004
Reply to Notice of Allowance

Page 6 of 7 of Applicants' Amendment After Final Rejection demonstrates that Applicants intended to claim the entire subject matter set forth in Claim 9::

Claim 9 is objected to but would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate the limitations presented in claims from which it depends. Therefore, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to limit its scope to the scope of Claim 9 to place claim 9 in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment does not require an additional search or examination. The issue fee has not been paid. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to enter this amendment in order to properly disclose and to protect the claimed invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith D. Courley
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 32,988
Attorney of Record

Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.
7201 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown, PA 18195-1501
Telephone (610) 481-6566
Facsimile (610) 481-7083